11.08 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Rajendra Agnihotri and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet at 12 o clock.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Child Labour

*21. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated number of child labourers in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of them working in hazardous industries; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to impose ban on the employment of child labourers, particularly in hazardous industries?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). According to 1981 census, the total number of working children in India was 13.6 million. The state-wise break up of working children is as under :

1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,951,312
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	17,950
3.	Assam	N.A.
4.	Bihar	1,101,764
5.	Goa	9,378
6.	Gujarat	616,913
7.	Haryana	194,189
8.	Himachal Pradesh	99,624
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	258,437
10.	Karnataka	1,131,530
11.	Kerala	92,854
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1,698,597
13.	Maharashtra	1,557,756
14.	Manipur	20,217
15.	Meghalaya	44,916
16.	Mizoram	6,314
17.	Nagaland	16,235
18.	Orissa	702,293
19.	Punjab	216,939
20.	Rajasthan	819,605
21.	Sikkim	8,561
22.	Tamil Nadu	975,055
23.	Tripura	24,204
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1,434,675
25.	West Bengal	605,263
26.	A and N Islands	1,309
27.	Chandigarh	1,986
28.	D and N Haveli	3,615
29.	Daman and Diu	N.A.
30.	Delhi	25,717
31.	Lakshadweep	56
32.	Pondicherry	3,606

According to the 43rd round of National Sample Survey conducted in 1987-88 the total number of working children was 17.02 million. It is therefore estimated that presently there would be around 20 million working children. The bulk of child labour is engaged in agriculture and allied employments including house hold occupations. Out of the total child labour population, around 2 million children are estimated to be working in hazardous occupations and processes. The data regarding the working children as per 1991 census are yet to be released by the office of Registrar General.

(c) Under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, the employment of children is prohibited in seven occupations and eighteen processes contained in part A & B of the Schedule to the Act. Employers employing children in the prohibited occupations and processes are liable to be procecuted under this Act. The responsibility for the enforcement of the various provisions rests primarily with the State/UT Governments. The Central Government has been impressing upon the State/UT Governments for the rigorous enforcement of the various provisions of the Act. Apart from the provisions under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulations) Act, 1986 there are other protective legal provisions in various other labour laws safeguarding the interest of the working children.

[English]

Strike by P & T Employees

*22. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :
SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Group C and D employees of P & T went on strike recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether an agreement has been reached between the Government and the employees;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the total loss suffered by the Government due to the strike;

(f) the steps taken to clear the Postal backlog accumulated during the strike and the extent to which the backlog has been cleared so far; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to stop recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Group C & D employees of Departments of Post and Telecommunications as well as Postal Extra Departmental Agents went on strike from 06.00 hours on 23rd October, 1996 and remained on strike till 29th October, 1996. Their demands were : (a) removal of eligibility ceiling for grant of bonus to all Group C and D employees in these Departments, and (b) sanction of justified bonus based on actual traffic for postal employees and payment of full bonus as per revised formula for telecom employees.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. However, the Postal and Telecom employees federations and associations formally called off strike on 30th October, 1996. The Government had earlier decided to give Productivity Linked Bonus to all Group 'C' and 'D' employees of the Departments where such bonus is being given.

(e) Total estimated loss of revenue suffered by the Government is approximately Rs. 40.6 crores in respect of Departments of Posts and Telecommunications.

(f) Targets for clearance of Postal backlog accumulated during the strike were fixed. Senior Officers from the Headquarters were deputed to oversee restoration of normalcy in the field and detailed instructions were issued to ensure that the backlog is cleared within the targeted period. The backlog has now been fully cleared.

(g) Full use of existing arrangements for discussion between staff representatives and administration will be continued and all out efforts made to resolve major differences/disputes, as warranted.

[Translation]

Fire at IGIA

*23. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT :
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated loss suffered due to the fire at Indira Gandhi International Airport recently;

(b) the steps taken to meet the losses;

(c) the reasons for this incident and the persons responsible therefor;

(d) whether an enquiry committee has been constituted;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the terms of reference of the committee;

(f) whether the Government are aware of the general criticism against the composition of the above committee;

(g) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(h) whether the above enquiry committee has submitted its report;

(i) if so, the details thereof, and

(j) if not, the time by which it is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The estimated loss to the Airports Authority of India (AAI) was approximately Rs. 11 crores.

(b) Claims have been filed with the Insurance Company M/s. The Oriental Insurance Company Limited, New Delhi.

(c) to (e). An Enquiry Committee composed of Shri S.K. Dheri, Chief Fire Officer, Delhi Fire Service, Shri Sharda Prasad, Additional Commissioner, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), Shri J.N. Bhawani Prasad, Chief Engineer (E), CPWD and Shri A.K. Chary, Chief Engineer (E & M), AAI has been constituted with the following terms of reference :

1. to ascertain the cause of fire in Terminal 1A at IGI Airport on the morning of 30-10-1996
2. reasons for the spread of fire
3. availability, adequacy and utilisation of fire detection and extinguishing systems.
4. measures taken to contain the spread of fire and protection of sensitive installations.
5. to assess the extent of the damage caused.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) to (j). The Committee is expected to submit its Report by 30-11-1996.

Minimum Rate of Wages

*24. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to raise minimum rate of wages in the unorganised sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure strict compliance of the rise in minimum rate of wages by the employers?